

## FAQ's and Lottery Stats

### ***Questions You May Have Regarding Possible Lottery Changes:***

**Q: In the past, I have applied for four different dates and listed a less desirable launch date for my third and fourth choices. Should I change my strategy if applying for a weighted lottery?**

A: It all depends on what you want for that float season. If you really want to float the river that year, applying for less popular dates for your third and/or fourth choices is a great strategy, but keep in mind that if successful, your extra chances have been used and you start with zero the next year, regardless of which date you are successful in drawing.

**Q: What if I know I'm going to be deployed, have a baby, or just cannot go on a river trip, so I wasn't planning to submit an application for that year?**

A: Skipping a year will zero out any extra chances you may have accrued. The extra chances are a way of acknowledging those who apply every year. Having exceptions to the annual application requirement negates the intent and effectiveness of having a weighted lottery. Your strategy may be that you go ahead and apply, but only submit one launch date, and pick a highly desirable date with a small chance of being drawn. If you are successful, your chances would be zeroed out, but you can cancel or decline the reservation, and you are no worse off than if you had skipped applying.

**Q: What if I am successful, but later find I cannot go because of jury duty, a health issue, or some other unavoidable reason; can I get my extra chances entered back into the system?**

A: No. The goal of the weighted lottery is to increase someone's chance of drawing a permit reservation. Once this happens, the extra chances have essentially been used and will not be returned.

**Q: Is this really going to help me draw a lottery date? Won't almost every applicant be getting extra chances too?**

A: The lottery will still be a random drawing; this type of weighted lottery will not guarantee that everyone will draw a permit someday. And yes, a lot of other applicants will also be getting extra chances as well. This is one of the reasons we are planning to require annual applications with no exceptions allowed.

**Q: Why not add a wait-out period for successful applicants, or even all trip participants?**

A: Part of the reason for keeping a weighted lottery simple is to hopefully avoid requiring Personally Identifiable Information, such as social security numbers, dates of birth, or driver's license numbers. Requiring this type of personal information is not desirable. Implementing wait-out periods and/or including all trip participants adds many layers of complexity, not just to the lottery program, but also at the launch sites.

**Q: Why not a points system, where if I accrue ten points, my application is considered before those who have nine or less points? Eventually, I will be guaranteed a permit if I keep applying.**

A: As stewards of these much sought-after rivers, we strive to balance public access and resource protection. How to allocate public access such as river permits originated in a random lottery where everyone has a chance

to draw a permit. Having a “points first” system would potentially exclude some applicants from having any chance of acquiring a lottery permit reservation. This would be a major shift in philosophy from a random lottery drawing that the Four Rivers Group is not prepared to make at this time.

### ***The numbers game***

Here are the numbers from the Four Rivers Lotteries since the transition to separate lotteries for each river.

<b>Applications Submitted by River:</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
Middle Fork	9794	10213	9335	9847
Salmon	5117	5711	5820	6312
Selway	2898	2815	2709	2933
Snake	1879	1938	2001	1939
<b>Total Applications:</b>	<b>19,688</b>	<b>20,677</b>	<b>19,865</b>	<b>21,031</b>

### **Number of Permits Available in the Lottery:**

<b>Permits</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
Middle Fork	387	387	387	387
Salmon	310	310	310	310
Selway	62	62	62	62
Snake	319	321	327	330
<b>Total Permits:</b>	<b>1,078</b>	<b>1,080</b>	<b>1,086</b>	<b>1,089</b>

### **Success Ratio based on number of Applications to Permits**

<b>Overall Odds of Drawing a Permit - 1 in:</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2012</b>
Middle Fork	25	26	24	25
Salmon	17	18	19	20
Selway	47	45	44	47
Snake	6	6	6	6
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>